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United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Service
United States National Arboretum
3501 New York Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

The Art of Chinese Penjing

May 22 and May 23, 2004

中国盆景艺术专题研讨会



A symposium at the
U.S. National Arboretum
3501 New York Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002
(202) 245-5898 ♦ www.usna.usda.gov
Co-sponsored by the National Bonsai Foundation and the U.S. National Arboretum

Penjing, the Chinese practice of growing artistic pot plants and miniature landscapes, began well over a thousand years ago and has spread throughout the world. However, most Westerners were introduced to this art form by way of Japanese bonsai even though bonsai had its origins in Chinese penjing. While both countries have made lasting contributions to the development and refinement of this horticultural artistic tradition, it originated in the context of Chinese culture.

This two-day symposium of slide lectures, discussions, and demonstrations with regional and international experts, moderated by Dr. William Tai of the University of Maryland, will provide an opportunity for participants to learn about the ancient origins of penjing and the singular influences that shaped this art form. Topics include the influence of Chinese gardens, the historical development of penjing and the various styles that have evolved throughout history. A presentation featuring the “companion” collections donated by Dr. Yee Sun Wu to the Montreal Botanic Garden and the U.S. National Arboretum will explore the uniqueness of maintaining both bonsai and penjing displays while respecting their differences. A special tribute to Mr. Wu will be given by the President of the National Bonsai Foundation, Felix B. Laughlin.

A dramatic new style of penjing -- Wind-Blowing Water and Rock -- will be introduced by **Hu Yun Hua** at a pre-symposium demonstration on Friday, May 21, from **2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** To provide an intimate setting for questions, this presentation will be limited to the first 25 registrants.

This symposium is sponsored by the U.S. National Arboretum and the National Bonsai Foundation through a generous grant from the Mary E. Mrose Fund of the National Bonsai Foundation. The intention of this fund is to establish the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum as the center of scholarly inquiry about the art and science of penjing and bonsai.

Schedule

Friday, May 21, 2004

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Wind-Blowing Water and Rock
Pre-symposium demonstration *
Mr. Hu Yun Hua

Saturday, May 22, 2004

8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
8:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
Dr. Thomas Elias, Director, USNA
Dr. William Tai, UMD
9:00 a.m. Chinese Cultural Influences on Penjing
Mr. Edwin Morris
10:15 a.m. The History and Styles of Penjing
Mr. Hu Yun Hua
11:30 a.m. Lunch
12:30 p.m. Creation Theory of Penjing
Mr. Hu Yun Hua
2:00 p.m. Penjing - A Synthesis of Nature and Art
Ms. Karin Albert
3:00 p.m. Tribute to Mr. Yee Sun Wu
Mr. Felix B. Laughlin, President, NBF
3:30 p.m. Reception
National Bonsai & Penjing Museum

Sunday, May 23, 2004

9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
9:30 a.m. The Wu Collections
Mr. Jim Hughes
10:00 a.m. Styling in the Penjing Tradition
Mr. Jack Sustic
11:30 a.m. Lunch
12:30 p.m. Penjing Demonstration
Mr. Cheng Xiao Hua
3:00 p.m. Synopsis and Closing Remarks
Dr. William Tai, UMD

* This demonstration requires an additional registration fee.

Speakers



Edwin Morris, author of *Gardens of China: History, Art and Meanings*, holds a Master's Degree in Asian Studies from Columbia University. He has taught at the New York Botanic Garden and lectured at the New York Horticultural Society and Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

Featured speaker and author of *Chinese Penjing: Miniature Trees & Landscapes*, **Hu Yun Hua**, is past Director of Penjing Research Center at the Shanghai Botanical Garden. Mr. Hu specializes in the history, development, and creation of penjing bonsai.



A native of Germany and co-founder of Lotus International Inc., **Karin Albert** has spent years researching the historical and cultural roots of penjing and was the first foreigner to be accepted into the Shanghai Penjing Society.

Jim Hughes, Assistant Curator of Plant Collections at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, has studied bonsai for more than 13 years and holds a degree in education.



Curator of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, **Jack Sustic's** interest in bonsai began while stationed in Korea, which led him to pursue a degree in horticulture from Michigan State University. He has had the opportunity to study under several masters including Saburo Kato and John Naka.

Cheng Xiao Hua, penjing specialist from Shanghai Botanical Garden, has been engaged in penjing work since 1976. Mr. Cheng has studied under famous penjing master Hu Ron Qing. Mr. Cheng's penjing creations have won many regional and national awards.



Registration Form

	NBF/FONA Members	Nonmembers	Students under 21
___ Full Symposium	\$160	\$200	\$100
___ One Day *	\$100	\$120	\$100
___ Pre-Symposium Demo (limited to first 25 registrants)	\$75	\$75	\$75

Amount Enclosed _____

* If registering for one day only, please indicate which day you will be attending.

_____ Saturday, May 22, 2004

_____ Sunday, May 23, 2004

No cancellation refunds after **April 30, 2004**.

Checks should be made payable to **USNA**.

Please use a separate registration form for each registrant.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Vegetarian option for meals? _____ yes _____ no

Special needs: _____

Mail this registration form with payment to:

US National Arboretum
3501 New York Ave. NE
Washington, DC 20002
ATTN: Event Registration

Call (202)245-5898 for more information

Hospitality provided as a courtesy of
the National Bonsai Foundation.